GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6011
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE ON AGRICULTURE
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of development expenditure incurred by the Government on agriculture during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware that farmers are not getting remunerative prices of their farm products;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to encourage farmers to continue with farm production so as to prevent unemployment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The details of expenditure incurred by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation onPlan schemes during the last three years are as follows:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Expenditure
2000-01	1666.04
2001-02	1776.56
2002-03 (Revised Estimate)	1687.00#

The expenditure for the year 2002-03 is yet to be finalized.

(b)&(c): The Government`s price policy for agricultural produce aims at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. The Government fixes each season the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and Cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (FCI) (Paddy, wheat and Coarse Cereals), Jute Corporation of India (JCI) (Jute), Cotton Corporation ofIndia (CCI) (Cotton), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) (pulsesand Oilseeds) and Tobacco Board (tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. The designated Central Nodal Agencies are required to intervene in the market forundertaking purchase operations in case the prices fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government.There has been record procurement of agricultural commodities in recent years.

(d): The Government has taken various steps based on regionally differentiated strategy like on- farm water management, Macro Management in Agriculture, Technology Mission on Horticulture Development in North East and Technology Mission on Coconut. Besides these programmes, other major programmes like promotion of micro irrigation techniques for optimal utilization of water, dissemination of agricultural technologies, oilseed production programme, National pulses development programme, Cooperative sector reforms, seed sector reforms and watershed development programme have been undertaken to increase the production and productivity of the agricultural crops in the country to prevent unemployment.